

Aside from the fact that Nikoden and Schlueter are not obviously combinable, even in combination, the structure in claim 1 would not be obvious. Schlueter shows in Fig. 4 an arrangement of cooperating connector parts that is contemplated to produce a connection between two angled panels. The connection is only possible by mounting the connector parts at an outside corner, as shown in that Figure. There is no teaching or suggestion as to how the cooperating connector parts in Schlueter might be arranged at a corresponding inside corner without completing redesigning the structure, as through the use of applicant's teachings. With the connector parts at the outside corner, the connector parts are accessible so as to be separable. Accordingly, little security is afforded by this design.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and has been amended to characterize the another of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel as having a substantially flat surface to which the second connector part is mounted. The flat surface resides in a reference plane. The repositionable lock hook is pivotably attached to a housing, with the housing being pivotable relative to the another of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel about an axis that is substantially parallel to the reference plane, between a first position, wherein the repositionable lock hook can be connected to the clip body, and a second position wherein the repositionable lock hook is urged so as to biasably urge the one and the another of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, rear panel against each other.

Schlueter's connector parts lack a corresponding housing which functions as claimed.

New claim 35 characterizes the housing as achieving an overcenter position wherein the housing is maintained in the second position as the housing moves from the first position into the second position. This allows a simple, single step pivoting movement to join the connector parts. No such structure is taught or suggested in the combined teachings of Nikoden and Schlueter.

Claims 3-21 depend cognately from claim 1 and recite further significant structural detail to further distinguish over the cited art.

As just examples, claim 10 recites a reinforcing rod extending between the top and bottom panel at a location spaced from the first and second side panels and rear panel. The Examiner has not indicated where any teaching or suggestion of such a structure resides in the cited references.

Claim 11, as amended, characterizes at least one of the first and second connector parts as extending fully through the first flange to connect to the other of the first and second connector parts. The cited art lacks any corresponding flanges through which any connector part extends.

Claim 18 recites a cooperating locating post and slot. No teaching or suggestion of such an arrangement is seen in the cited art.

Claim 22 has been amended to include the limitations added to claim 11. As noted with respect to claim 11, the cited art lacks an arrangement of flanges and connector parts as now recited.

Claims 23, 24 and 26-30 depend cognately from claim 22 and recite further significant structural detail to further distinguish over the cited art.

Claim 31 has been amended to incorporate the limitations added to claim 2 by amendment herein. The arguments advanced with respect to that amended structure apply equally to claim 31, as amended herein.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-24 and 26-31, consideration of new claim 35, and allowance of the case are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By


John S. Mortimer, Reg. No. 30,407

WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ
CLARK & MORTIMER
500 W. Madison St., Suite 3800
Chicago, IL 60661
(312) 876-1800

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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 15, please amend the first full paragraph as follows:

With the structure described above, the kit elements are held together by means which are mounted at inside corners defined by the angularly joined panels, rather than at outside corners so as to be accessible only from the storage space 24. Thus, with the closure element 30 in the closed state, unauthorized disassembly of the panels 14, 16, 18, 20, 22 is prohibited from externally of the storage space 24.

Page 19, please amend the second full paragraph as follows:

The second connector part 288 is fixedly attached to the vertical edge section through a U-shaped base element 296. The base element 296 supports a latch assembly 298 which is pivotable relative to the base element 296 about a hinge pin 300 between a latched position, as shown in solid lines in Fig. 8, and an unlatched position, shown in phantom lines in that same figure. The latch assembly 298 includes a U-shaped housing 302 which straddles the base element 296 and which is connected to the base element 296 through the hinge pin 300. A U-shaped lock hook/latch wire 304 is pivotably mounted to the housing 302. By pivoting the housing 302 from the phantom position to the solid line position, a cross bar 306 on the latch wire 304 is drawn closer to the base element 296. The housing 302 achieves an overcenter position to be maintained in the solid line position as the housing 302 is moved from the phantom position into the solid line position.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Three Times Amended) A securable enclosure, the securable enclosure having a front opening, said securable enclosure comprising:

a top panel;

first and second side panels;

a rear panel,

the top panel, first and second side panels, and rear panel being connected to each other with the securable enclosure in an assembled state to bound a storage space accessible through the front opening;

a first connector part fixedly attached to one of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel; and

a second connector part fixedly attached to another one of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel,

the first and second connector parts releasably connected, each to the other, without requiring any additional separate parts to maintain the one and the another of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel together with the securable enclosure in the assembled state,

wherein the first and second connector parts are releasable from each other by accessing and repositioning at least one of the first and second connector parts from within the storage space with the securable enclosure in the assembled state,

wherein the one and the another of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel are fixed together so that the one and the another of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel and rear panel are angled with respect to each other to define an inside corner and an outside corner, and the first and second connector parts are mounted at the inside corner.

2. (Twice amended) The securable enclosure according to claim 1 wherein the first connector part comprises a clip body and the second connector part comprises a repositionable lock hook that is releasably connectable to the clip body, the another of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel having a substantially flat surface to which the second connector part is mounted, the flat surface residing in a reference plane, the repositionable lock hook is pivotably attached to a housing and the housing is pivotable relative to the another of the top panel, first side panel, second side

panel, and rear panel about an axis that is substantially parallel to the reference plane between a) a first position wherein the repositionable lock hook can be connected to the clip body and b) a second position wherein the repositionable lock hook is urged so as to biasably urge the one and the another of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel against each other.

11. (Twice amended) The securable enclosure according to claim 1 wherein the one of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel has a substantially flat first surface and a first flange with a flat surface that is angularly disposed to the first surface, the another of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel and rear panel has a substantially flat second surface and a second flange with a flat surface that is angularly disposed to the second surface, and with the securable enclosure in the assembled state, the flat surface on the first flange is facially abutted to the flat surface on the second flange, wherein at least one of the first and second connector parts extends fully through the first flange to connect to the other of the first and second connector parts.

22. (Three Times Amended) A securable enclosure comprising:
a plurality of panels that are connected together with the securable enclosure in an assembled state to bound a storage space accessible through the front opening,
a first connector part fixedly attached to one of the panels; and
a second connector part fixedly attached to another one of the panels,
the first and second connector parts being connected, each to the other, without requiring any additional separate parts to releasably maintain the one and the another panels together with the securable enclosure in the assembled state,
wherein the first and second connector parts are connected by accessing and repositioning at least one of the first and second connector parts from within the storage space,

wherein the one of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel has a substantially flat first surface and a first flange with a flat surface that is angularly disposed to the first surface, the another of the top panel, first side panel, second side

panel and rear panel has a substantially flat second surface and a second flange with a flat surface that is angularly disposed to the second surface, and with the securable enclosure in the assembled state, the flat surface on the first flange is facially abutted to the flat surface on the second flange, wherein at least one of the first and second connector parts extends fully through the first flange to connect to the other of the first and second connector parts.

Please cancel claim 25.

26. (Twice Amended) The securable enclosure according to claim [25] 22 wherein the first connector part comprises a clip body and the second connector part comprises a repositionable lock hook that is releasably connected to the clip body.

31. (Amended) A securable enclosure comprising:
a plurality of panels that are connected together with the securable enclosure in an assembled state to bound a storage space accessible through a front opening,
a first connector part fixedly attached to one of the panels; and
a second connector part fixedly attached to another of the panels,
the first and second connector parts being releasably connected, each to the other, without requiring any additional separate parts to releasably maintain the one and the another panels together with the securable enclosure in the assembled state,
wherein the first and second connector parts are releasable from each other by accessing and repositioning at least one of the first and second connector parts from within the storage space,

wherein the first connector part comprises a clip body and the second connector part comprises a repositionable lock hook that is releasably connectable to the clip body, the another of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel having a substantially flat surface to which the second connector part is mounted, the flat surface residing in a reference plane, the repositionable lock hook is pivotably attached to a housing and the housing is pivotable relative to the another of the top panel, first side

panel, second side panel, and rear panel about an axis that is substantially parallel to the reference plane between a) a first position wherein the repositionable lock hook can be connected to the clip body and b) a second position wherein the repositionable lock hook is urged so as to biasably urge the one and the another of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel against each other.

Please cancel claims 32-34.

Please add new claim 35 as follow:

35. The enclosure according to claim 2 wherein the housing achieves an overcenter position wherein the housing is maintained in the second position as the housing moves from the first position into the second position.